

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00342 201403Z

46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 PC-01 AID-05 CU-02 OPR-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01

OMB-01 SY-05 A-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

SCA-01 SCCT-01 /059 W

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P R 201215Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1974

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINS, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN TEACHERS' STRIKE

1. BAHRAIN'S PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WENT OUT ON STRIKE
MARCH 20 IN LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN LINGERING DISPUTE CAUSED
BY EDUCATION MINISTER'S DISMISSAL FIVE SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR
GIVING INTERVIEWS TO LOCAL PRESS CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT'S
EDUCATION POLICIES WITHOUT PRIOR MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE.
MORNING MARCH 20 RIOT POLICE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AND THERE
ARE REPORTS OF USE OF TEAR GAS AGAINST SOME GROUPS OF STUDENTS
CAUSING MINOR DISTURBANCES. BY NOON MARCH 20 THERE WAS NO
EVIDENCE IN MANAMA OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND SITUATION
APPEARED NORMAL BUT RIOT POLICE REMAIN DEPLOYED AND ON THE
ALERT. STRIKE ORIGINALLY CALLED FOR ONE DAY ONLY BUT AS OF
NOON MARCH 20 IT STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER SCHOOLS WILL REOPEN
MARCH 21. IN MY MARCH 19 AND 20 CONTACTS WITH GOB MINISTERS,
I FOUND THEM NOTABLY RELAXED AND NOT TREATING TEACHERS'
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00342 201403Z

STRIKE AS MAJOR CRISIS. MINISTER AGRICULTURE AND MUNICIPALITIES

COMMENT TO ME MARCH 20 WAS THAT HE UNCERTAIN HOW TEACHERS AND
GOVERNMENT WOULD REACT TO CLOSING OF SCHOOLS BUT THAT THE
CHILDREN IN HIS FAMILY WERE DELIGHTED.
TWINAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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05 JUL 2006

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